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NEWS *release*

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Yukon Government to Fund Licensed Practical Nurse Program

WHITEHORSE – Education Minister Patrick Rouble and Health and Social Services Minister Brad Cathers are pleased to announce that a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) program will be offered beginning in September through Yukon College Ayamdigut Campus in Whitehorse.

"Our government is proud to support Yukon College in its work to offer life-long learning opportunities locally," Rouble said. "We believe this program reflects the social and economic needs of Yukoners.

"The Department of Education will contribute \$1.4 million over four years," Rouble added. "A local LPN program will offer many benefits and will encourage Northerners who are interested in pursuing a career in a medical profession to remain in Yukon."

"This LPN program builds on our \$12.7-million Health Human Resource Strategy, which was launched in 2006 to assist in recruiting and retaining Yukon health care professionals," Cathers said. "Training licensed practical nurses locally will help address Yukon's demand for health professionals, particularly in continuing care and home care."

Yukon College President Terry Weninger is excited about the program.

"We are happy to hear that the funding has been approved," Weninger

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said. "Being able to offer this program will mean students will not have to go elsewhere to receive this level of education. Having this program available in Yukon is a good news story for the College, for students and for our local health system."

The two-year program will be transferable to other institutions if students wish to pursue a registered nursing program and it is anticipated the program will graduate 12 students every two years. Students will be eligible for the Health Professions Education Bursary available through the Department of Health and Social Services.

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